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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 25 | Min 18 | Humidity 64% Cloudy Sensex 81,748 | Nifty 24,668 | Gold 77,315 | Silver 91,484 | Dollar 84.89 | Euro 89.16 | GBP 107.51

SLOW & EASY

As city records 3,969 accidents till Oct, researchers stress on need for drivers to focus on visual awareness by slowing down

PAGE 3

SQUAT AWAY

Of 2.4 lakh acres of forest land encroached upon in state, eviction has happened just from 3,000+ acres

PAGE 4

Police outpost that was renovated in 2022 with amenities for officers has become out of bounds as street vendors have taken up all space around it — what chance does footpath stand then?

HOW TO SET UP SHOP

BBMP says vendors come back right after eviction

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

It seems there is nothing immune to negligence or encroachment in the city. Encroachers have not even spared a police outpost at Saraipalya on Thanisandra Main Road. The entire footpath is occupied by street vendors thus leaving no space for pedestrians to walk on the footpath and even rendering pointless the much-needed facility – police outpost – for law and order and traffic police.

It is said the outpost was constructed for the benefit of police as well as the public in and around Saraipalya a few years ago. It was renovated in 2022 by Nagesh R, a businessman from Thirumenahalli as per the traffic police inspector's advice. "I spent around Rs 50,000 for the renovation of the police outpost in 2022. The renovated police outpost was inaugurated by a traffic police inspector. The outpost functioned for six months and it was a great help for public as well as traffic police constables but it was abandoned due to the reasons best known to the traffic police. Now, the outpost has become a dumping place for waste and other material," said Nagesh.

He said that the renovated police outpost had all amenities such as chairs and ceiling fan and lights. "With the vegetable vendors occupying the space around the police

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> The outpost functioned for six months and it was a great help for public as well as traffic police constables but it was abandoned due to the reasons best known to the traffic police
>
> —Nagesh R, business man who spent towards renovation work

Cruel without a clue

Police book 2 for poisoning street dogs; activists wonder whether case will move on to charge sheet and trial phases

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After Sarjapur Police booked two persons in case of poisoning three street dogs under various sections of the Prevention of Cruelty against Animals (PCA) Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), city-based animal welfare workers say such cases rarely lead to some action.

Cases were filed on December 5 after three dogs died on December 4 and two were taken seriously ill due to poisoning.

The Police have registered an FIR under Section 325 of BNS and Section 11 of the PCA Act. While section 325 of the BNS, 2023, makes the maiming or killing of any animal a cognizable offense and provides for a jail term of up to five years, a fine, or both, section 11 of PCA terms these acts 'cruel' with provisions for penalty.

"The incident took place at La Ville Township in Anekal. The accused allegedly poisoned the dogs, leading to the excruciating death of one of them.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Music concert

A year-end concert by Surabhi Ensemble, an award-winning world music band based in Chicago, USA. This special performance is part of Surabhi Ensemble's India-wide "Bridging Cultures Through Harmony" Tour, spreading a message of peace and unity through their genre-defying music and visually stunning presentations.
Where: Indian Music Experience Museum, Bengaluru
When: December 20, 7 pm

02 Poetry night

Poetry session with Divya Ramachandran on Tuesdays with the Bard @ Urban Solace. She is an author and content creator. Divya primarily writes books for children and has her own audiobook series called Magic Ink.
Where: Urban Solace
When: December 17, 7:30 pm to 9 pm

03 Listen on

Public lecture on From Dust to Dust: Air Pollution and Urban Experience in the Indian Anthropocene by Amita Baviskar, Professor of Environmental Studies and Sociology at Ashoka University.
Where: Bangalore International Centre (BIC)
When: December 18, 6:30 pm to 8 pm

04 Life & love

Aashadada Ondu Dina is a pathbreaking Kannada play. It is not a play that glorifies the past or dwells just in the emotions of love. It has love, hate, satire, reality, comedy, and pretty much everything else.
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
When: December 17, 7:30 pm

05 Interesting read

Book release- THE BLAFT BOOK OF ANTI-CASTE SF! moderated by RT Samuel. The book features weird, fantastic, supernatural, Dalit futurist, & magical realist fiction by writers from South Asia and the diaspora.
Where: Champaca Bookstore
When: December 21, 5 pm

'File license renewal appeals as revisions'

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that challenges to Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) license renewal rejections must be filed as revisions before appellate authorities rather than appeals to the HC.

Justice K Natarajan dismissed an appeal by Action for Community Organisation, Rehabilitation and Development contesting the Union's March 30 rejection of their FCRA certificate renewal. The court observed that whilst Section 31 of FCRA allows appeals for confiscation-related orders under Sections 28 and 29, and cancellation orders under Section 14, it does not cover renewal rejections under Section 16. The bench noted that merely referencing Section 12 in the rejection order was insufficient to warrant an appeal under Section 31(2). **–BMB**

Eternal gratitude

Army soldiers and NCC cadets pay tributes to the martyrs during the Vijay Diwas celebration at National Military Memorial Park in Bengaluru on Monday

Govt to launch special program to reduce needless C-sections

36% of births by caesarean in govt hospitals, 61% in private; taluk hospitals to provide 24/7 maternal services to ensure natural deliveries during night

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With Karnataka recording an average of 46% of deliveries via caesarean section (C-section), this surgical procedure to deliver a baby is constantly increasing in the state. It was noted that 36% of deliveries in government hospitals are done via C-section and 61% in private hospitals. To address this issue, the Health and Family Welfare Department will be launching a special program next month to curb unnecessary caesarean deliveries, said Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao during a legislative council session.

"To reduce such surgeries, taluk-level hospitals are being strengthened to provide 24/7 maternal services, ensuring natural deliveries during the night and performing caesareans only when necessary. This step aims to reduce unnecessary referrals from taluk to district hospitals and limit superfluous caesarean surgeries," he said.

Rao said that the state has opened 88 maternal and child hospitals, of which 60 are operational, offering 24/7 comprehensive maternal services. "Skilled staff and specialists in these hospitals are promoting natural deliveries. The midwifery program has been introduced to boost natural births, with nurses undergoing 18 months of specialised training to handle deliveries. Currently, training is being conducted in Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Belagavi."

An average of 46% of deliveries in the state are via C-sections

> **State has opened 88 maternal & child hospitals, of which 60 are operational, offering 24/7 comprehensive maternal services**
>
> –Dinesh Gundu Rao, Minister of Health & Family Welfare

He further added that by July 2025, MLCUs (Maternal and Labour Care Units) will be operational in district hospitals in Hassan, Mandya, and Mysuru. Training centres have also been established in Bengaluru's Vani Vilas Hospital, and further expansions are planned for Kolar, Bengaluru, Davangere, and Tumakuru hospitals post-training completion by December 2025. Caesarean audits are being conducted in hospitals to examine the necessity of surgeries. Monthly review meetings are held at the district level to monitor and prevent unnecessary procedures.

Action against fake clinics

Rao said that the state will enforce stringent measures against fake medical clinics under Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Amendment Act, said Rao in response to a question during the legislative council session. Since January 2021, 134 fake clinics were identified in Kolar district alone, of which 16 were sealed, 8 PCR cases were filed, 1 case resulted in an FIR, and 7 are under trial. A total of 102 clinics have been shut down, the minister informed.

Free & affordable cancer treatment

Meanwhile, Medical Education Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil said that the government provides free cancer treatment at the Kidwai Memorial Institute for families below the poverty line (BPL) under the Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka scheme, while affordable care is offered to families above the poverty line (APL). Under the Rare Disease Scheme, expensive treatments like robotic surgeries and bone marrow transplants are made available free of cost for BPL families. Efforts are underway to equip 31 district hospitals with cancer treatment facilities, the minister said.

46 arrested in female foeticide cases

Since 2023-24, eight cases of female foeticide have been reported, leading to 46 arrests, stated Rao. Enhanced inspections of scanning centres and hospitals have resulted in uncovering more cases. State-level monitoring committees under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act have been formed to curb female foeticide. Awareness programs and incentives for informants have been introduced to combat this menace.

Slow down and you can see more

Speeding reduces vision, heightens accident risks in urban landscape with visual stimuli overload

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According to research highlighted in a recent post on the Blrcitytraffic social media platform, up to 80% of road accidents could be prevented if drivers focused on improving their visual awareness by slowing down. As of October 30, 2024, a staggering 3,969 accidents have been reported, with 723 fatalities. These numbers highlight the need for road safety awareness.

The post also talks about the "tunnel effect" a psychological phenomenon that significantly affects drivers' attention, narrowing their field of vision as speed increases. However, "tunnel effect", a phenomenon hailed as a safety mechanism on highways, fails to extend its benefits to urban and tunnel roads. While this phenomenon enhances focus and reduces accidents on long, uninterrupted stretches, Professor MN Sreehari, a traffic and infrastructure expert, revealed this in a recent analysis of driving dynamics.

The tunnel effect is based on the idea that as speed increases, a driver's peripheral vision shrinks. At 40 km/h, a driver's field of vision extends to about 100°, but this narrows as the vehicle picks up speed. At 65 km/h, it drops to 70°; at 100 km/h, it's only 45°. When reaching speeds of 130 km/h, peripheral vision reduces to just 30°, and at 150 km/h, it's a mere 18°. This constriction of vision means drivers have less time and fewer visual cues to detect potential hazards, such as pedestrians, cyclists or other vehicles.

While this narrowing of vision improves safety on highways by filtering distractions, it hinders drivers in urban settings, where awareness of peripheral hazards is critical. About 90% of the information we use while driving is processed through our eyes, making the ability to see hazards essential for preventing accidents. However, as speed increases, our ability to notice these dangers decreases. Sreehari underscores the importance of maintaining visual concentration behind the wheel to ensure safety.

India's roads face unique challenges due to a diverse mix of 13 vehicle types, including bicycles, autorickshaws, motorcycles, and cars, each moving at different speeds. Unlike the uniform traffic patterns in the United States, this variation in speeds and driving habits disrupts the tunnel effect's effectiveness. "On highways, uniform lanes and controlled traffic flows allow drivers to benefit from the tunnel effect. But in urban environments, it's dangerous. Drivers miss critical side cues, increasing accident risks," says Professor Sreehari.

Urban roads are filled with visual stimuli traffic lights, pedestrians, and intersections—that help keep drivers alert. These factors require drivers to remain conscious of their surroundings, unlike highways where the monotonous nature of the road encourages a focused, but isolated, driving experience. Furthermore, tunnel structures, though not directly related to the tunnel effect, exacerbate the issue. The confined spaces and poor lighting in tunnels, especially at night or during foggy conditions, further limit peripheral vision. Additionally, the exhaust fumes from nearby vehicles can reduce visibility.

> **"On highways, uniform lanes and controlled traffic flows allow drivers to benefit from the tunnel effect. But in urban environments, it's dangerous. Drivers miss critical side cues**

At high speeds, the world outside feels like it's zipping by, but the faster you go, the fewer cues your brain can process. If something unexpected happens, you're left with little time to react.

"Speeding is more common at night when reduced visibility and slower light adaptation impair depth perception, significantly limiting a driver's ability to respond to sudden hazards. In low-light conditions, a driver may miss speed bumps or other critical cues, making it essential to adhere to safe speed limits, whether on highways or urban roads," says South division DCP (Traffic) Shiva Prakash Devaraju.

To mitigate risks, traffic officials recommend a speed reduction to increase visual awareness.

Notorious rowdy injured in police shootout

A dramatic shootout unfolded near Mayasandra, Anekal, early on Monday morning, as Jigani Inspector Manjunath opened fire on notorious rowdy-sheeter Bestamanahalli Lokesh, alias Loki.

Loki, wanted in five cases, including a recent attack on rowdy-sheeter Manoj, was tracked down by a police team led by PSI Siddanga Gowda from Bannerghatta police station. When officers attempted to arrest him, Loki resisted violently, attacking constable Channabasava Naik with a knife.

In response, PSI Siddanga Gowda fired a warning shot in the air, but Loki continued his aggressive stance. Acting in self-defense, Jigani Inspector Manjunath fired at Loki, injuring him in the right leg.

The police swiftly apprehended Loki and admitted him to St. John's Hospital in Bengaluru for treatment. Constable Naik is also receiving medical care.

Loki had been evading capture since orchestrating the attack on Manoj alongside his gang. **BMB**

Slogan in mosque: SC to hear plea

The Supreme Court on Monday took up a petition challenging the Karnataka High Court's ruling from September 13, which had nullified an FIR against two individuals for chanting 'Jai Sri Ram' within mosque premises.

Justices Pankaj Mithal and Sandeep Mehta, whilst agreeing to review the case, declined to issue notice on the petition submitted by complainant Haydhar Ali CM. The bench instructed senior advocate Devadatt Kamat to deliver the petition to state counsel, scheduling the hearing for January 2025.

Kamat highlighted that the High Court had halted the investigation merely 20 days after the FIR's registration.

The court inquired about the complaint's origin and the identification process of the accused. **BMB**

Senior citizen loses ₹6 crore of his life savings in cyber scam

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A senior citizen has fallen prey to an organised scam pulled off by a group operating under the name International Equity Fund (IEF). The man ended up losing his whole life's savings of₹6.41 crore to the fraudulent scheme that has left him financially devastated and with a mountain of debt.

The scam was allegedly run by individuals posing as representatives of IEF, a supposed advisory firm claiming to be based in Delaware, USA, and registered in India as a Foreign Portfolio Investor. The group lured the victim through WhatsApp, offering training sessions and enticing promises of massive returns of up to 700% on investments.

Training

According to the complaint filed by the victim earlier this month, the ordeal began on July 19, when he was contacted by Meera Patel, one of the key suspects, through WhatsApp. Patel, along with other suspects including Hardik Shah and Ashish Goyal, allegedly conducted sessions to encouraged the victim to invest.

The scammers conducted elaborate training sessions to build trust and credibility among the victims. The victim was added to a WhatsApp group where individuals, posing as experts, provided detailed guidance on investment strategies.

The training covered topics like stock recommendations, IPO allotments, and block trading. This is a tactic fraudsters use to convince victims, experts say. The sessions, spanning 15 days, were designed to instill confidence in the scheme, eventually leading the victim to invest his savings.

The victim recounted being pressured to deposit funds for preferential stock allotments and IPO subscriptions, with claims of high-frequency trading advantages.

Victim took loans

The fraudsters demanded large "security deposits" to unlock promised profits. Desperate to recover his investments, the victim borrowed₹3.2 crore from family and friends, including ₹70 lakh to meet the demands. Despite depositing a total of ₹6.41 crore, his account was locked, and more payments were demanded. When he reached out to Meera Patel for help, she became evasive and eventually stopped responding, along with the other scammers.

The fraudsters operated through multiple phone numbers and bank accounts, with their portal facilitating fake transactions to simulate profits, a tactic commonly used to lure people, a police official stated. The victim also provided details of the group's purported SEBI certificate and office address in Mumbai, which are now suspected to be falsified.

Experts and police officials advise against sharing personal information, bank details, or making deposits with unverified entities.

Fraudsters often use convincing tactics and professional-looking platforms to build trust before scamming victims.

It is crucial to thoroughly research investment opportunities, verify the authenticity of firms through official regulatory bodies and avoid surrendering to high-pressure tactics promising unrealistic returns.

Only 13% of encroached forest area freed till now

Activists express concern over slow pace of eviction and lack of efforts to avoid encroachments

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Pushpagiri wildlife sanctuary (File photo)

Until September this year, the Karnataka Forest Department has freed up nearly 13% of the total forest area under encroachment in the state. By December 2023, while more than 2.4 lakh acres of forest land were reported infringed, eviction happened on just over 3k acres.

Wildlife experts and activists have expressed concern regarding the slow pace of eviction.

They say while the Forest, Ecology and Environment minister of the state has been making statements about coming down heavily on encroachers, the work on the ground is going at a snail's pace.

"This is very slow progress. In the last five years, evictions have happened on only 5,719 acres of forest area. This is when fresh encroachments are happening every year. This is a failure on the part of the forest department. While fresh encroachments are happening, no action has been taken against officials concerned," said a wildlife activist.

Experts highlight that, as per rules mentioned in the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963, circle heads, Deputy Conservator of Forests Officers (DCFOs), Assistant Conservators of Forest (ACFs), and Range Forest Officers (RFOs) should be held accountable in case of fresh forest encroachment incidents.

Notably, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) recently wrote to the state government regarding the high number of fresh forest encroachment cases in Karnataka. The letter addressed to the Additional Chief Secretary of the Forest, Ecology, and Environment Department was in response to a complaint given by a citizen regarding the failure of the department to prevent fresh forest encroachments.

> **This is very slow progress. This is a failure on part of the forest department. While encroachments are happening, no action has been taken against officials concerned** –Wildlife activist

MoEF&CC has requested the state government to take appropriate action on the complaint requesting the authorities concerned to initiate action against forest officials for their failure to prevent massive fresh forest encroachments as per the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, and relevant state provisions.

Experts also highlight a Karnataka government order copy dated August 2002, emphasising the need for framing a time-bound programme for eviction of encroachment on forest land, in line with a Supreme Court order in 1995.

The government order was issued in response to a letter by MoEF&CC in May 2002 highlighting the need for the formulation of a committee at the forest circle level to look into forest encroachment cases.

As per the order, the committee has to be constituted under the chairmanship of the conservator of forest with the district collector and superintendent of police as members, which may meet every quarter to take effective steps to assist the divisional forest officer of the territorial division, wildlife warden, and national park and sanctuary director for the eviction of the encroachers.

The committee is also supposed to monitor the progress of updating the revenue records of notified forest areas. Moreover, the committee was also given the task of submitting a quarterly report to the government on these aspects.

"Two committees were to be formed to look into the matter—one at the state level and another at the district level. Both the committees were to meet once every three months to look into the status of encroachment of forest land. The state forest minister must ascertain if these committees are in place and conducting meetings regularly," said a city-based wildlife conservationist, emphasising quick action.

Hanuman Jayanthi festival celebrated with zero waste

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Use of steel plates helps cut down on waste at large events

This year, the Hanuman Jayanthi festival in Parangipalya was celebrated with an eco-friendly twist, making it a "Zero Waste" event. Over 1,500 devotees joined the celebrations, which included prayers and prasadam, all organised with the support of HSR Citizen Forum (HCF).

One of the key highlights was the use of reusable steel plates instead of disposable ones. Sawakruta Charitable Trust provided a "plate bank," ensuring that no single-use plastic or paper plates were used. This simple step prevented the use of more than 1,500 disposable plates, reducing waste significantly.

"This is a great example of how we can celebrate festivals responsibly. We are happy to see so many people join hands to protect the environment." said BNS Ratnakar, managing committee member, HSR Citizen Forum.

After the festival, the organisers also collected 100 kilograms of flowers, including Tulasi, offered by devotees. Instead of throwing the flowers away, they sent them to Swacha Graha Kalika Kendra (SGKK), a composting centre. This centre, which recently celebrated its sixth anniversary on December 15, turns organic waste into compost. Composting helps create nutrient-rich soil and avoids harmful waste buildup.

Experts pointed out that using steel plates instead of disposable ones helps reduce plastic waste that harms the environment. Plastic can take hundreds of years to decompose and often pollutes water and land. Composting flowers also keeps organic waste out of landfills, where it would otherwise release harmful gases like methane.

"These small changes make a big difference. We enjoyed the celebrations while knowing we were helping the environment," said a devotee who attended the festival.

"The festival in Parangipalya shows how traditions can blend with sustainable practices. By taking simple steps like avoiding disposables and composting waste, the community has set an example for others to follow. It proves that festivals can be joyful and eco-friendly at the same time," added Ratnakar.

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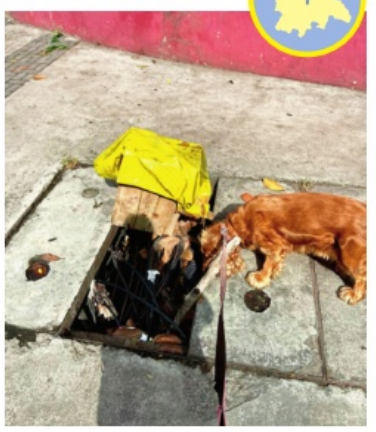
Overflowing sewage

Hesaraghatta

The 10th main road near the park in AGB Layout is plagued by the flow of sewage water, which has been causing a foul stench and health issues for nearby residents.

Risky roads

Richmond Road



The pavements on Richmond Road are in a deplorable condition, posing inconvenience and safety risks for pedestrians.

Traffic trouble

Nallurahalli

The stretch from Nallurahalli 7th Cross Road near Brigade IRV Centre to Borewell and Pattundur Agrahara faces daily traffic jams. The road is congested due to stray cattle and piles of garbage.

Activists demand better upkeep of heritage statues in city

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Bengaluru's iconic Queen Victoria statue, located in Queen's Park near Cubbon Park, is once again in the spotlight after its crown was found missing and later discovered in broken pieces. The incident has raised concerns about the maintenance and preservation of heritage structures in the city. With restoration efforts underway, citizens and heritage enthusiasts are hoping that the iconic statue will soon regain its former glory.

The members of the heritage group, Heritage Beku, on Sunday noticed that the crown was missing. Upon closer inspection on Monday, they found pieces of the crown scattered nearby. Priya Chetty Rajagopal, a member of Heritage Beku, took immediate action by informing the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials, horticulture department officials, and the police.

"Queen Victoria's statue is historically significant, and this incident underscores the urgent need for greater protection of our heritage structures. We need more CCTV cameras near statues like Queen Victoria's, Mark Cubbon's, and the Maharaja's. Regular audits to clean and inspect these statues would also help preserve them better," said Chetty.

Kusuma G, Deputy Director of Horticulture for Cubbon Park, explained the probable cause of the crown's fall. "Statues are exposed to the elements, and the crown, which is attached to the statue with a hook, appears to have been damaged over time due to weather conditions or birds. We found the broken crown in three pieces and have contacted the Department of Archaeology and restoration experts for advice."

'Incidents like this highlight need for better security and proactive measures'

Historical values

The Queen Victoria statue, sculpted by English artist Sir Thomas Brock, was unveiled on February 5, 1906, by the then Prince of Wales, George Frederick Ernest Albert. It stands as a testament to Bengaluru's colonial past and is one of the city's oldest monuments.

The statue has undergone restoration work in the past. In 2017, the Department of Archaeology restored its sceptre and orb, which had been damaged or missing for years. Experts believe the crown can also be restored.

Heritage advocates stress the importance of maintaining historical monuments like the Queen Victoria

statue, not just as relics of the past but as a way to educate and inspire future generations. "Monuments like this should remain accessible to the public. Incidents like this highlight the need for better security and proactive measures," Chetty added.

No homes, no compensation: Homebuyers approach KHRC

State human rights commission directs DC to take suitable action, asks for report by Jan 10; penalty from builder yet to be collected post 2 years since order

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The penalty is imposed by the RERA on a builder for not delivering the flat on time

With the revenue department allegedly remaining apathetic towards collecting the penalty imposed on a builder by Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA), hapless homebuyers have approached Karnataka State Human Rights Commission (KSHC) seeking a solution to their woes.

A homebuyer approached the KSHRC seeking a direction to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Bengaluru Urban to expedite the recovery of a penalty imposed by the RERA on a builder for not delivering the flat on time. Homebuyer Sudhakar Lakshmanaraja told Bangalore Mirror that he has to get around Rs 40 lakh towards compensation from the builder. "I am waiting for the revenue authorities to collect the penalty from the builder as per the Karnataka RERA directive," he said.

Based on his letter, the KSHRC wrote a letter to the Bengaluru Urban DC on December 4 advising to consider the complaint and take suitable action. The KSHRC has directed the Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner to send a report on the action taken by January 10, 2025.

"Dear Human Rights Commission, I am writing to bring to your attention the severe mental and financial distress my wife and I have been enduring due to the inordinate delay in the possession of our booked apartment (B1606, Mantri Manyata Energia). We booked the apartment in 2018, with an expected delivery in 2019. Despite approaching Karnataka RERA and obtaining favourable orders for compensation, the case has been stalled at the Bengaluru DC's Office for the past two years," the letter by Lakshmanaraja read.

He further alleged that the builder has been blatantly disregarding legal and administrative orders, exploiting systemic inefficiencies, and mocking the rule of law at every step. Moreover, he said the lack of action from government officials has exacerbated their suffering, leaving them in an unending cycle of frustration and despair. "I earnestly requested the Human Rights Commission to intervene in this matter, ensure accountability, and direct the authorities concerned to take swift and decisive action. This delay is not just a breach of trust but also a violation of our fundamental right to a dignified life," the letter added.

2 years down since RERA order, no action yet

As per the documents available with BM, Karnataka RERA wrote a letter to Bengaluru Urban DC on February 28 and on May 30, 2022, to take measures to collect the penalty from the builder, but nothing has been done to date.

Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, Sanchalak, Karnataka Home Buyers Forum said that getting justice is a fundamental right of human beings when they are cheated. Homebuyers go to RERA or Consumer Court with the hope that they get justice, but unfortunately the Karnataka RERA is just passing the orders without bothering with their implementation. "In some cases, the RERA is not giving the dates for hearing the complainants for years together. This violates the fundamental human rights. We advise home buyers to register cases with the KSHC or National Human Rights Commission if their rights are violated by RERA or the government employees," he said.

> **Despite approaching K-RERA & its orders for compensation, case has been stalled at B;luru DC's office for past 2 years**
> – Homebuyers letter to KSHRC

IN BRIEF

Techie suicide: Accused denies harassment charge

Prime accused in the sensational Atul Subhash suicide case Nikita Singhania changed her location every day to avoid arrest and tried to obtain bail in the case, said police sources on Monday.

Three accused in Atul Subhash's suicide case—his wife (Nikita), her mother and brother—who were arrested by Bengaluru Police, were sent to 14-day judicial custody on Sunday. Nikita was arrested from Haryana's Gurugram and her mother Nisha Singhania and brother Anurag Singhania were nabbed in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.

Details of arrest

Police sources, while giving details about the arrest of the accused, stated that the special teams that went to Uttar Pradesh had found that the accused had locked their houses and left after getting the news of their arrival. The police had pasted notices on the walls of their residences asking them to appear before the police within three days.

The special team gathered information about the accused and listed out the close relatives and friends suspected to be in touch with them. They were also monitored. As the accused made calls only on WhatsApp, it was difficult to track them. However, Nikita, made one phone call mistakenly to one of her close relatives. Based on the tower location, the police went to Gurugram in Haryana and found that she was hiding in a PG accommodation in the Rail Vihar area. She was detained by the police in the city. The police grilled Nitika and got her to make a phone call to her mother and brother. After tracking their location, the police nabbed both of them. The police are yet to arrest the fourth accused, Sushil, in the case.

Bail plea preparation

On the other hand, the family of Nikita is preparing to file a bail plea in the court. Nikita has claimed that she never harassed Atul, and she was living away from him for three years. Nikita's family had alleged that the deceased Subhash demanded a hefty dowry from her family, which resulted in the death of her father. —IANS

Cauvery pollution: Panel submits report with recommendations

Report outlines observations, recommendations, and actionable solutions, which will require collaborative discussions among key departments and agencies

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Wellesley Bridge in Srirangapatna withstanding the gushing Cauvery water (File photo)

Finally, the government plans to take action to curb pollution in the Cauvery River. Forest, Ecology, and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre stated that an expert committee was formed in June to assess and report on the pollution of the Cauvery River caused by the discharge of untreated sewage, solid waste, industrial effluents, and other contaminants. Responding to a starred question raised by MP Kushalappa in the Legislative Council on December 16, the minister provided updates on the committee's activities.

The latest data released by the Centre has revealed alarming levels of pollution in certain sections of the river, particularly near Srirangapatna, downstream of the Krishna Raja Sagar dam. Khandre said that the expert panel has convened twice so far, including a site visit to the Cauvery River in Mysuru district on July 4. During the visit, the committee gathered suggestions and feedback from its members regarding the river's pollution. It also collected information from the regional offices of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and held consultations with stakeholders. The committee has meticulously reviewed inputs from its members and data from regional officials to prepare a comprehensive report, which has already been submitted to the government through the KSPCB.

The committee has meticulously reviewed inputs from its members and data from regional officials to prepare a comprehensive report, which has been submitted to the government

Based on the report, the government is expected to take preventive measures to protect the Cauvery River. The technical committee's recommendations include short-term and long-term action plans to control and prevent pollution. The report outlines observations, recommendations, and actionable solutions, which will require collaborative discussions among key departments and agencies.

These include the Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board, Directorate of Municipal Administration, Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Revenue Department's Regional Commissioners, the Department of Water Resources, and the KSPCB. Senior officials from these departments are tasked with formulating an integrated action plan to curb pollution in the Cauvery River, Minister Khandre added.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) report tracking 62 locations along the River Cauvery on a monthly basis, including 33 locations in Karnataka and 28 locations in Tamil Nadu. Additionally, one location at the interstate point of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu (Ajibore) is monitored quarterly by the CPCB.

The River Cauvery not only serves as a significant source of drinking water but is also a vital water resource for major industrialised cities and towns, including Bangalore in Karnataka and Mettur, Pallipalayam, and Komarapalayam in Tamil Nadu. Unfortunately, the riverbanks host various industrial establishments, such as chemical, dyeing, leather/tanneries, pulp & paper, sugar mills, printing, and bleaching industries, contributing to the pollution burden. The report from the year 2022 identifies two severely polluted river stretches on the Cauvery River, one in Karnataka and the other in Tamil Nadu, based on the analysis of water quality data using Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) as criteria for evaluation. In Karnataka, the stretch along Srirangapatna has a maximum BOD of 6.0 with a priority class of five.

Waqf row: Video has proof claims CM

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said that there was video footage showing former state Minority Commission Chairperson Anwar Manippady accusing state BJP president BY Vijayendra of attempting to "bribe" him by offering Rs 150 crore to hush up his report on the Waqf encroachments.

The chief minister's statement came in response to Manippady's statement on Sunday denying such an offer was made to him by Vijayendra and instead alleging that Congress leaders had tried to bribe him.

Manippady, as the chairman of the Karnataka State Minority Commission, had prepared the report and submitted it to the then BJP government in March 2012. It was tabled in the legislature in 2020, when the BJP was again in power.

"Manippady had himself said it in the past. Which (statement of his) is right and which one is wrong? Manippady is the one who said it first, based on which we reacted. If he now says no, what should be done? Tell me. According to me, our reaction is right," Siddaramaiah said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, "He (Manippady) is the one who had claimed that Rs 150 crore was offered to him. There is a video recording. He said it at a press meet. Now, after many years, he is denying it. What should be done? Tell me."

Asked if he would order a CBI probe into alleged claims by Manippady, the CM said, "He (Manippady) has said it. Let's see. The issue will be raised and discussed."

Siddaramaiah, earlier in a statement on Saturday, said—Manippady had publicly stated that Vijayendra visited his house during BS Yediyurappa's tenure as CM and offered Rs 150 crore to be silent about the Waqf property encroachment report.

Demanding a CBI probe, the CM in his statement said, Manippady has further stated that he sent Vijayendra out of his house when he offered money and reported the incident to PM Narendra Modi and the BJP president.

Vijayendra on Sunday said the Congress and Siddaramaiah seem to be "perturbed" by the allegations of corruption and scam against them, especially by the MUDA site allotment case against the CM.

Questioning whether there was any logic in the allegation, he asked, "Why should I go to Anwar Manippady's house and offer Rs 150 crore? That too to save Congress leaders (named in the report)?

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Siri Garden to host first-ever 'Ooty Winter Flower Fest-2024'

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

For the first time, Karnataka's Horticulture Department is set to organise the 'Ooty Winter Flower Fest-2024' at the Karnataka Siri Horticulture Garden in Ooty. The event, envisioned as a winter celebration, is designed to showcase the beauty of rare cold-climate flowers and promote inter-state tourism and cultural exchange. Located adjacent to the renowned Ooty Botanical Garden, the Karnataka Siri Horticulture Garden at Fern Hill has recently been transformed into an inter-state botanical attraction, with new initiatives aimed at drawing more visitors.

According to estimates, Ooty welcomes over 30 lakh tourists annually. In an effort to attract more visitors to Karnataka's Siri Garden, the department under the leadership of Assistant Director BK Krishnamurthy has planned a 10-day flower festival, marking the first such event in the region. Scheduled for late December or early January, the festival will feature over 50 varieties of rare winter blooms, offering a visual treat to visitors. "We wanted to create something distinct from the summer flower festival held at the Ooty Botanical Garden. This winter event will not only showcase flowers but

also highlight the art and culture of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala," said Dr M Jagadeesh, joint director of the Horticulture Department. The festival will include a variety of cultural programmes such as music and dance performances by artists from the three states, fostering a unique exchange of traditions and strengthening cultural ties.

A centrepiece of the festival will be a grand floral replica of Karnataka's Vidhana Soudha, built amidst the 12-acre green expanse of the garden. Measuring 30-40 feet in height, this model will serve as a symbol of unity and collaboration between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Chief Ministers from both states are expected to attend the event, adding a significant touch to the festivities.

Initially planned for mid-December, the festival was postponed to early January due to heavy rains in Tamil Nadu. "From now on, the 'Ooty Winter Flower Fest' will be an annual event," confirmed Dr Shamla Itbhal, secretary of the Horticulture Department.

Temporary restriction on entry to Jog Falls

Entry to Jog Falls in Sagara taluk will be temporarily restricted for three months, from January 1 to March 15, due to ongoing development works at the main entrance and the provision of basic facilities for tourists, according to the district administration. The restriction has been imposed to avoid inconvenience to the public and tourists during the construction activities. The District Commissioner has requested the cooperation of the public. For further information, contact: 08182-251444.

SC sets aside order quashing illegal iron ore export case

We haven't expressed any opinion on merits of case: Apex court directs involved parties to appear before HC on February 3, 2025

In a relief to the CBI, the Supreme Court on Monday set aside a judgement of the Karnataka High Court quashing a 2013 criminal case against a company and others in an alleged case of illegal iron ore export.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar asked the Dharwad bench of the HC to decide the case afresh on some counts except the amount of the alleged iron ore exported by M/S MSPL Limited and others. "We have set aside the (HC) judgement. The parties are directed to appear before the high court on February 3, 2025," the bench said. "We have not expressed any opinion on the merits of the case."

The bench was hearing about 11 appeals of the CBI against the December 12 judgement of Justice M Nagaprasanna of the HC. The HC judge quashed the proceedings initiated by the CBI in the case related to the illegal export of iron ore and said the registration of the case and the filing of the chargesheet by the CBI against M/S MSPL Limited and others were contrary to law.

The HC said the apex court had empowered the CBI to investigate cases of export of over 50,000 metric tonne of iron ore without valid permits. It noted the total quantity alleged in the chargesheet against the company was 39,480MT, below the threshold set by the apex court.

The HC held the CBI lacked jurisdiction to register the case or file the chargesheet but said it did not mean that MSPL Limited could not be investigated. It said the special investigating team (SIT) constituted by the Karnataka Lokayukta was empowered to initiate proceedings for cases below the 50,000 metric tonne threshold, going by the SC's directions. It held since the CBI had no jurisdiction, all actions arising from the chargesheet, including the cognisance taken by the trial court, were invalid.

> **"Registration of case & filing of chargesheet by CBI against M/S MSPL Limited and others were contrary to law, so it is quashed**
> – High Court

On the issue of the role of directors, the HC said their specific roles must be clearly established in the complaint, investigation, and chargesheet. The directors cannot be arraigned as accused without clear evidence of their active involvement in the alleged illegality, it said.

The HC order therefore partly allowed the petition and quashed the chargesheet.

Probe against Amazon, Flipkart: SC says all pending cases should go to HC

The Supreme Court on Monday said the petitions of e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart challenging an order of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) ordering a probe against them for alleged malpractices should be transferred to the Karnataka High Court.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Manmohan issued a notice on the plea filed by the CCI which sought the transfer of the petitions filed by the e-commerce platforms from the high courts to the top court or the Delhi High Court.

"Issue notice. Prima facie, we are of the view that all cases that are pending in various High Courts should be transferred to Karnataka High Court for hearing," the bench said and posted the matter on January 6, 2025.

The top court, however, asked the Karnataka HC not to proceed with the hearing on the petitions filed by e-commerce giants. During the hearing, attorney general R Venkataramani submitted that CCI did not have an objection if the matter was heard by the Karnataka High Court. In its plea before the top court, the CCI sought directions to transfer the cases pending before the high courts of Allahabad, Madras, Telangana, Punjab & Haryana, Delhi and Karnataka, either to the Supreme Court or the Delhi High Court.

The fair trade regulator CCI ordered the probe against Flipkart and Amazon for alleged malpractices, including deep discounting and tie-ups with preferred sellers on their platforms. The CCI's probe order followed a complaint by Delhi Vyapar Mahasang, whose members comprise many traders dealing in smartphones and related accessories.

Following the CCI's order, Amazon and Flipkart filed separate petitions in various high courts, challenging the investigation. **— BMB**

Youtuber arrested for alleged pond explosion

A social media influencer was arrested for allegedly causing an explosion using sodium in an agricultural pond in the Tumakuru district, police said on Monday.

NM Prathap, also known as Drone Prathap, was arrested on Friday evening after police received a video of the incident that he had uploaded to his YouTube channel, they said.

The video, which went viral on social media platforms, showed the explosion occurring at Sree Rayara Brundavana farm in Janakaloti, Madhugiri taluk.

Videograb of the alleged explosion posted on X by @HateDetectors

However, when questioned, 27-year-old Prathap claimed that it was a science experiment performed as part of a promotional video for his YouTube channel. He later deleted the video, a senior police officer said.

Based on the video, a case was registered against Prathap under relevant sections of the Explosive Substances Act and Section 288 (negligent conduct with respect to explosive substance) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the officer said.

Prathap is a former Bigg Boss Kannada contestant. After his arrest, Prathap was taken into police custody for three days. He was produced before the court, which sent him to judicial custody for 14 days, the officer added. **— PTI**

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Can wearing tight underwear lower a man's sperm count?

Claim: Wearing a tight underwear lowers a man's sperm count
Fact: True. However, its link to infertility remains uncertain

| Newsmeter.in

A post by the handle @Men_Sex_Health, shared on the X platform warns people against wearing tight underwear, saying it would reduce their sperm count by up to 40%. "Stop wearing tight underwear: Wearing underwear increases the temperature down there. Increasing the temperature by one degree Celsius reduces sperm concentration by 40%," reads the post that has garnered 52.4K views, 893 likes, and 104 views.

However, the handle does not reference any scientific evidence or authority to support its claim. When the temperature needs to be lowered, the cremaster muscle (the muscle that hold the testicles in place) relaxes and the testicles are lowered away from the body and are able to cool. Wearing tight underpants draws the testicles closer to the body, exposes them to higher temperatures. The increase can be anywhere from 0.5 to 0.8 degrees Celsius. But, whether this increase in temperature is enough to destroy the sperm and cause infertility is not clear.

Men's Sexual Health
@Men_Sex_Health
Subscribe
Stop wearing tight underwear:
Wearing underwear increases the temperature down there.
Increasing the temperature by one degree Celsius reduces sperm concentration by 40%.
10:33 AM · Oct 18, 2023 · 52.4K Views
Post your reply
Reply

"The real question is whether this (wearing tight underwear) is enough heating to actually cause infertility, and sadly it's not one we have an answer to yet," says a report published in Mcgill in mcgill.ca, a Mcgill University website.

Studies have found that lifestyle and environmental factors impact a man's sperm count, impacting his fertility. "Several studies have investigated associations between semen quality and the presence of lifestyle stressors i.e. occupational, life events (war, earthquake, etc.) or couple infertility; overall, these studies provide evidence that semen quality is impaired by psychological stress," says this report.

However, the study does point out that the type of underwear a man wears impacts semen quality. "The type of clothing a man chooses to wear, may have effects on reproductive health i.e. tight fitting underwear and pants showed a relative risk of 2.5 of having impaired semen quality," the study mentions. "Thus, it has been suggested that tight fitting versus loose fitting underwear is detrimental on sperm parameters."

What is the fact?

Studies have consistently shown that sperm production is most efficient at temperatures slightly lower than the body's core temperature, a fact that explains the anatomical placement of the testes outside the body. Research suggests that wearing tight underwear can raise the temperature of the testicles, potentially impacting sperm quality and production, though its direct link to infertility remains uncertain.

The production of sperms "is more efficient at a temperature somewhat less than the core body temperature," according to a report published in Sciencedirect. This is the reason that in mammals the testes are located outside the body.

The story was originally published by First Check (https://firstcheck.in/fact-check-can-wearing-a-tight-underwear-lower-a-mans-sperm-count/) and republished by Bangalore Mirror as part of the Shakti Collective.

State to get five new cancer hospitals, more access to medical facilities

Karnataka Minister Sharan Prakash Patil on Monday said the government plans to build cancer hospitals in five locations across the state, to reduce the need for patients to travel to Bengaluru for treatment.

Replying to a question from MLC M Nagaraj in the Legislative Council, the State Medical Education Minister said, priority is being given to the establishment of these hospitals, ensuring they are "equipped with all necessary facilities".

"While I was Minister in the previous government, I established a cancer centre in Kalaburagi, and I have now sanctioned 250 beds for it. The government has already taken steps to set up well-equipped cancer hospitals in Karwar, Mandya, Shivamogga, Mysuru, and Tumakuru," Patil said.

"If a suitable site is found, the government is seriously considering building a well-equipped cancer hospital in Belagavi," the Minister said.

Further, he added, "Earlier, the government was considering opening a cancer hospital at the Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences (BIMS), but due to a shortage of land, the plan is pending.

Assembly Session at Suvarna Soudha, in Belagavi on Monday

Noting that the government provides free treatment at cancer hospitals for those with Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards, Patil said, "We charge a 30 per cent fee to Above Poverty Line (APL) cardholders. We are ensuring quality treatment and basic facilities in district and taluk hospitals."

8 bills passed in Assembly

The Karnataka Assembly on Monday unanimously passed eight Bills, including one aimed at protecting the interests of depositors in private financial institutions.

The bills tabled and passed included the Karnataka Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, the Protection of Interest of Depositors in Karnataka Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (Second Amendment) Bill, and the Karnataka Tourism Ropeways Bill.

Other bills passed were the Basavanbagewadi Development Authority Bill, the Karnataka State Universities (Amendment) Bill, the Chanakya University (Amendment) Bill, and the Karnataka Groundwater (Regulation and Control of Development and Management) (Amendment) Bill. **PTI**

'127 children from poor families died in Yadgir in one year'

As many as 127 children died in Yadgir district due to various reasons in the last one year, said Gurmitkal JD(S) MLA Sharanagouda Kandakur on Monday.

Highlighting the plight of his district, he said those who died were all poor as the rich could afford treatment at corporate hospitals. "127 children have died in Yadgir in the past one year. All of them were from poor families and were getting treatment in the government hospital," the JD(S) MLA said during a discussion in the Assembly on north Karnataka.

Kandakur said the health infrastructure in the Kalyana Karnataka region has "collapsed" and five maternal deaths took place in Ballari district.

According to him, in the past three years, 2,079 maternal deaths have happened in the state.

Police outpost or not, vendors are everywhere

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

outpost, no one has access to the outpost. I have also complained to the BBMP assistant executive engineer to clear the street vendors from the footpath but in vain. The space around the outpost is being used by miscreants at night," he said.

Another resident of the area Ravi Kumar, said the pedestrians are finding it tough to walk on the footpath as most of the space is occupied by the street vendors. "The traffic police or law and order police must reopen the outpost for the benefit of the public. The presence of police will instill confidence among the public and discourage anti-social elements," said Ravi Kumar.

Demanding the BBMP officials clear footpaths on Thanisandra Main Road, Akash Gowda M, a resident, said some of the street vendors have encroached on the footpath and extended their shops onto the road.

"The pedestrians as well as motorists have been facing a lot of problems due to encroachment of the footpath. It will be a great help and relief for pedestrians if the footpaths are free from encroachers," said Gowda.

When informed, Hennur Traffic Sub-Inspector said that he would visit the spot and take suitable measures. "No one has complained to us about the condition of the outpost at Saraipalya. I will visit the spot and do whatever is possible," said the sub-inspector. BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer Ranganath told BM the BBMP organised a drive to clear encroachments on Thanisandra Main Road a month ago.

"The problem with the street vendors is that they come back the very next day after we evicted them from the footpath. We will organise one more drive to clear encroachments shortly," the assistant executive engineer said.

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I, Rushit Kumar Chandulal Parmar S/o Chandulal N Parmar R/o 915/25, Usha Kutir, 3rd floor, 2nd Main,4th Block,Rajajinagar,B'lore - 560010, declare that the names (1) Parmar Jimit R in Birth Certificate (2) Jimit R Parmar in Aadhar and (3) Jimit Rushitkumar Parmar in Passport are the name of one and the same person and that is my son Jimit R Parmar as in Aadhar for all purposes declared before Notary.

I, SALEEM.S, R/a.#69, 2nd Flr, Raghavendra Colony, Lalbagh, Siddapura, jaynagar 1st Blk, Bangalore-11. I, have Changed my name to MOHAMED SALEEM, Vide affidavit, dated 09.12.2024 Sworn before Notary Meer Hussain Bangalore

I, Vijaya Kumar Raju Gandepudi S/o, David Raju Gandepudi R/o No 311 B Venkatadri Nilaya 3rd Main 10th Cross Vijaya Bank Lyt Billekahalli Bengaluru 560076 have changed my name to Vijay Kumar Gandepudi for all purposes.

I, Kadiri Manasi R/O 306, SLV Sowmyashree Apartments, Sharadambanagar, Jalahalli, Blr-13. I changed my name from Manasi Kadari to Kadiri Manasi for all future purposes.

I Anas Kunju Mohammed S/O, Kunju Mohammed R/o 7/37,padanturai,gudalur, The Nilgiris, 643211 Tamilnadu have changed my name to Anas.

I Subuhi Janam W/o Wasim Bari, R/o Second Floor No 18 CORP Quaters, Berlie Street, Shanthinagar, Benguluru, has changed my name from Subuhi Bari to Subuhi Janam in my passport for all future purposes.

I SUBRAMANI R S/O RAMAKRISHNAPPA NANJAPPA R/O 15 Hadonahalli Doddaballapur Taluk Bangalore Rural Karnataka 561205 have changed my name to TEJAS GOWDA R. (C/2324/C00105)

I Zaheer Ahmed Taha S/o, Ameer Ahmed Trichanapalli R/O No 9, 4th Cross, Bilal Nagar, Sagayapura, Bangalore 560045 have change my name to Zaheer Ahmed Trichanapalli for all purposes.

I Amol Ashok Ashtekar R/o 211, Block C, SLS Springs, Haralur, Bangalore have changed my minor daughter's name from Maithilee Ashtekar to Maithilee Amol Ashtekar for all future purposes

I, Hussain Syeda Athiya Mahe Munir W/o Mohamed Ayub R/o #39, 1st cross, Dinnur main road, Kausar Nagar, Bangalore 560032 have changed my name to Hussain Syeda Athiya Mahe Muneer for all purposes.

I, Kallepalli Rama Krishnam Raju R/O FOF-08,B Block, Ajantha Vihar, 4th Phase Yelahanka New Town, Blr-64 I changed my name from Ramakrishna Kallepalli to Kallepalli Rama Krishnam Raju for all future purposes.

I, Hariharan S S/o, Soorianarayana Iyer C/o, Mithun Seshadri, R/o 277, 2nd Floor, Pennfield Garden, Telecome Layout, Jakkur Post, Bangalore 560064 have changed my name to Soorianarayana Hariharan for all purpose

I, Puttalakshmamma W/o Narasimha V C R/o No.17A, Bettagalale, Arakalgud, Hassan 573130 present camp Bengaluru have changed my name to Veena Vokkaligara Narasimha Affidavit Dt.16/12/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, MISHRI LAL, residing at No.104, Shanaboganahalli, Jayaram Layout, Anekal, Bangalore – 560083, have changed my name to MISHRI LAL SEERVI, vide affidavit dated 16/12/2024, sworn before notary Venkataramu H G, Bangalore.

I, Mahatab Anjum W/o, Zaheer Ahmed Trichanapalli R/o No 9, 4th Cross, Bilal Nagar, Sagayapura, Bangalore 560045 have changed my name to Mehtab Anjum for all purposes.

I, Abhilash S S/o P Srinivas Reddy R/o 17, R R Layout,Sri Srinivasa Saligrama Temple, Ramohalli,Bengaluru,Karnataka-560074, have changed my name to Abhilash Reddy

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Animal welfare workers push for stricter action

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This episode has also left two other dogs severely ill. One is suffering from liver damage and the other, a female dog, has sustained critical damage to her nervous system, rendering her blind and unable to stand or walk," said Virendra Singh of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), who worked with the complainant to ensure that a first information report (FIR) was promptly registered.

However, animal welfare workers say animal crime cases in the city rarely move to the charge sheet and trial phases. After the initial FIR, police take little cognizance of these cases owing to a lack of will and awareness, they said.

"Thorough investigation and evidence collection are also missing in this process. Since hit-and-run cases, feeder harassment and poisoning dogs are on the rise law enforcement on animal cases beyond FIR is the need of the hour. It is a misconception that police are not aware of animal laws. They just don't want to take up these cases as there is a lack of will," said Sadhana Hegde, founder of Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust, a city-based NGO that is conducting awareness sessions around animal laws and rules at police stations across the city.

So far, Sahavarthin has conducted these sessions at seven police stations in Bengaluru South zone.

Criminal mind

Organisations working in the field say that perpetrators of animal abuse and crime should undergo psychiatric evaluation and receive counseling, as

abusing animals indicates a deep psychological disturbance. They cite research showing people who commit acts of cruelty to animals are often repeat offenders who move on to hurting other animals, including humans.

"A study published in Forensic Research & Criminology International Journal stated that those who engage in cruelty to animals to animals were three times more likely to commit other crimes, including murder, rape, robbery, assault, harassment, threats, and drug/substance abuse.

We have sent a proposal to the central government regarding an amendment to the PCA Act by significantly increasing penalties for cruelty to animals," added Singh.

HEALTH TIP: Stress, anxiety, and even boredom can trigger food cravings, particularly for comfort foods

Ghee offers beneficial fats that aid with digestion and controlling hormones in new mothers

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Happy holidays

What did the ancients think about taking a break? Not everyone was convinced it is a good thing

Greek philosopher Plutarch of Chaeronea (1st-2nd century AD) observed that our lives are divided between relaxation and exertion.

For example, there are times when we are working and times when we are on holidays. He said rest was important: Rest gives relish to labour.

In ancient Greece and Rome, many people also recognised that taking a holiday was an opportunity to restore the health of the body and mind.

However, not everyone was convinced holidays were healthy or even a good idea.

Take a holiday. It'll do you good

In the ancient world, people sometimes went on holidays to try to improve their mental and physical condition. This usually meant moving from one climate to another, hoping this would help.

In one of his letters, the Roman writer and jurist Pliny the Younger (1st-2nd century AD) writes about how he tried to cure a man called Zosimus of an illness that made him spit blood.

Pliny sent him on a holiday to Egypt. Zosimus returned after a long holiday "with his health restored".

However, Zosimus became sick again. So Pliny sent him on another holiday, this time to Gallia Narbonensis (in modern day southern France). Pliny tells us in his letter: the air is healthy there and the milk excellent for treating this kind of [illness].

But watch where you go and how you get there People also sought out or avoided specific places, depending on whether the places were considered healthy or not.

The physician Galen (about 129-216AD) tells us the water at Mytilene, on the Greek island of Lesbos, had qualities to treat various illnesses, including hydrops, a type of fluid build-up that leads to swelling: This water is suitable both for those with hydrops and for the other swellings, being strongly drying. Similarly, it is also suitable for those who are obese, and particularly when someone also compels them to swim more in it quickly, and after bathing more, not to drink or eat immediately [...].

Doctors also advised people to seek out or avoid specific modes of travel.

For instance, when treating headaches, the physician Caelius Aurelianus wrote about the benefits of sea voyages:

Sea voyages imperceptibly and gradually open the bodily pores, give rise to a burning effect by reason of the saltiness of the sea, and, by working a change, repair the bodily condition. We must try to arrange voyages to places where the climate is mild and the north wind prevails, conditions the opposite of those which can aggravate the disease.

But he advised against travelling on fresh water: Voyages on rivers, bays, and lakes are considered unsuitable, since they cause the head to become moist and cold by reason of the exhalation from the earth.

It's easy to overdo it on holiday

Not everyone in antiquity thought holidays were healthy. Some thought holidays could be harmful, because we sometimes drank or ate too much.

For example, the physician Galen complained about how people on holidays tended to make their health worse rather than better.

In his work Hygiene, Galen observed that people who are unwell because of their difficult work routine, such as slaves, needed the opportunity to restore their health by having a holiday.

But Galen noted these people did not always use holidays to restore their health because they used holidays to eat and drink too much:

They are able to make such provision for themselves during those days on which there is some public festival, when they free themselves from the services of a slave. But due to lack of control they not only do nothing to correct those things collecting deleteriously in the body, but they also fill themselves full of these things by eating badly.

Greek writer Athenaeus (2nd-3rd century AD) mentions how "everyone [...] eagerly awaits festivals", because on festive holidays the tables are full of drink and food. Clearly, it was easy to eat and drink too much.

Holidays waste time and are only for the lazy

In the ancient world, people sometimes complained holidays were a waste of precious time.

Philosopher Seneca (1st century BC-1st century AD) said the religious practice of taking every Sunday away from work meant people wasted "a seventh of their life".

Similarly, the writer Claudius Aelian (2nd-3rd century AD) said holidays were simply devised as an excuse to be lazy: Look at you men – devising endless pretexts and excuses for idling!

How do you want to spend your time?

While many of us will use our holidays to rest and recover, others will need to, or choose to, work this festive season.

The ancients would have said that holidays present new possibilities, not just for our health but for other things too. For example, Pliny the Younger sometimes used holidays to study Greek. It's hard to disagree with that.

(By Konstantine Panegyres, The University of Melbourne, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Micromance

New trend
Today's dating scene is embracing a different kind of love – one that's more grounded, real, and, most importantly, sustainable.

The little things
Bumble, the women-first dating app, conducted a survey among 40,000 Gen Z and millennial users to predict dating trends for 2025. And what do you find? The so-called 'little things' in romance, aka 'micro-mance' is the way forward for love.

Small moments
Gone are the days when romance was all about grand gestures like skywriting declarations of love or lavish dinners by candlelight. The data says it all: a whopping 92% of single Indians are now embracing the beauty of smaller, everyday moments that pack an emotional punch. Think of it as love in bite-sized doses: sending a 'this made me think of you' meme, curating a playlist that matches a shared vibe, sharing a laugh over morning coffee or simply a quick voice note that says "I'm miss you".

Modern dating
We live in a fast-paced world where time is a luxury, and elaborate displays of romance can often feel forced or even impractical. Micro-mance, on the other hand, fits seamlessly into modern dating, especially for those of us who find joy in the everyday. It's no wonder that 'The quickest way to my heart is' has become one of the top prompts on Bumble – singles are embracing this softer, more genuine side of love.

Not showy
For Indian women who are tired of showy gestures that feel hollow, micro-mance offers a path to genuine intimacy. And let's be honest – after a decade where dating became synonymous with swiping, ghosting, breadcrumbing and everything in between, this return to sweetness is a welcome change. If you ask us, we're here for it.

—Femina

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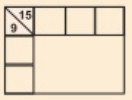
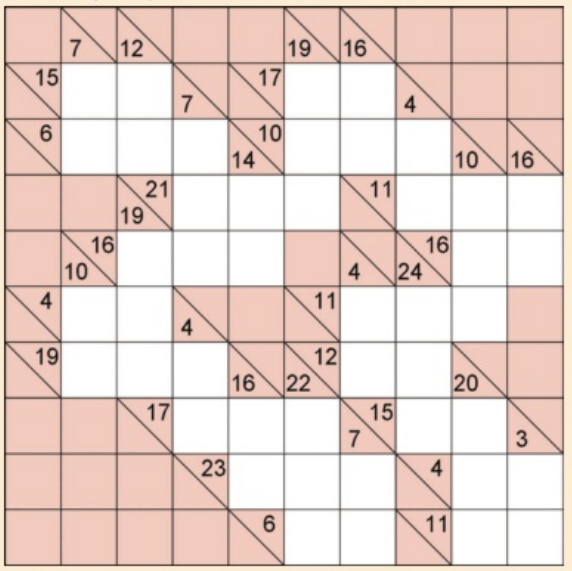
Kakuro

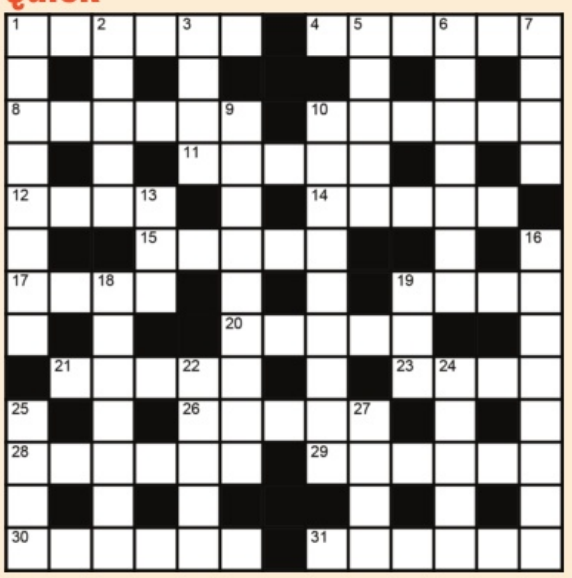


The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Threadbare (6)
4 Lack of enthusiasm (6)
8 At ___ : in course of one's education, in a way? (6)
10 Less bright? (6)
11 Ladies (5)
12 Well-ventilated (4)
14 Poison (5)
15 Little Eleanor (5)
17 Seizes suddenly (4)
19 From a distance (4)
20 Skulk (5)
21 Chocolate tree? (5)
23 Barely managed (4)
26 A gardener's implement (5)
28 The universe (6)
29 Exclaiming in amazement, joy, or surprise (6)
30 Snoozed (6)
31 Disclose (6)

DOWN

1 Supports, bears the weight of (8)
2 Detest (5)
3 Misfortune (4)
5 Dried plum (5)
6 Scold (4,3)
7 Rambling story (4)
9 Sweets on sticks (9)
10 Former Karnataka Chief Minister who went on to become Prime Minister of India (4,5)
13 Affirmative (3)
16 Recklessly wasteful (8)
18 Batters or hammers? (5,2)
19 Brewed beverage (3)
22 Collectively (2,3)
24 Cutting tool (5)
25 Glance over (4)
27 Make less painful (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Q EQUALS P

QNVQFN JNWGYR TBGH HBNS GJN NUNR YM HBNYJ MGINL MGFF GQGJH.

Linemaro

When I look at you, the rest of the world disappears

Mindchow

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is wasted

Joke of the day

Seeing a spider isn't a problem. It becomes a problem when it disappears!

Loop

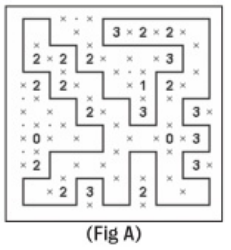
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

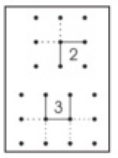
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

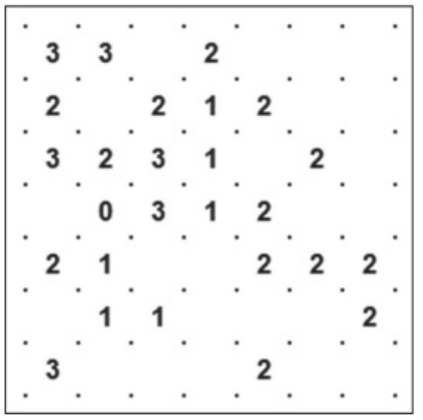
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



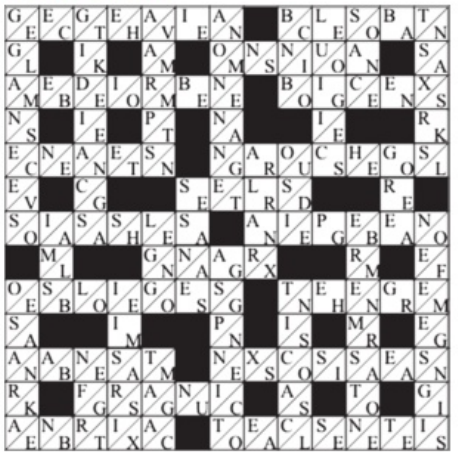
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



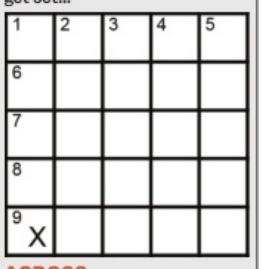
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

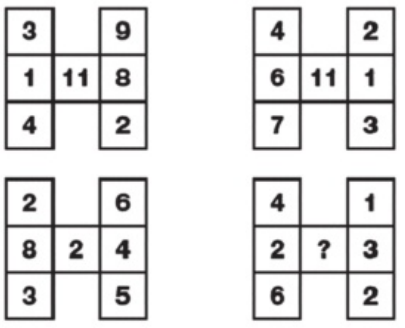
1 Brace; 6 Ave Ga;
7 Topis; 8 Eaten;
9 Lex my

DOWN

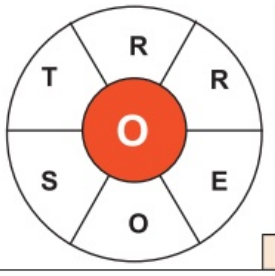
1 Cep ax; 2 On Gay;
3 Baals; 4 IT eve;
5 Meter

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

12 Average; 14 Good; 16 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	1		7				4	
			1	6		9		8
		5			4			
	7		4			8		
	3	1	2		8	7	5	
		9			7		3	
			5			4		
6		3		4	9			
	5				1		6	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

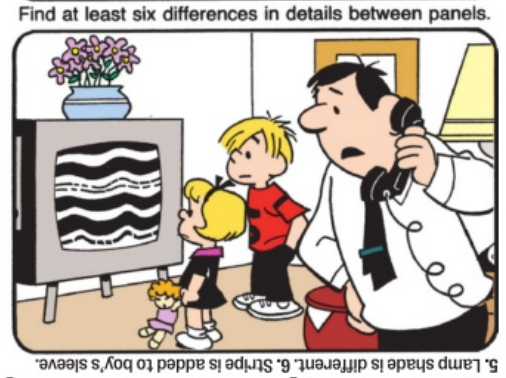
Easy = 3
2 3 5 7

Medium = 24
2 5 7 8

Hard = 29
3 6 9 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



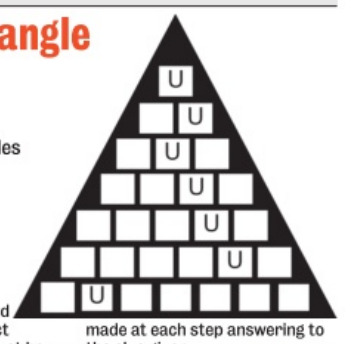
Differences: 1. TV screen is smaller. 2. Tie is different. 3. Doll's arm is not showing. 4. Part of shirt collar is not showing. 5. Lamp shade is different. 6. Stripe is added to boy's sleeve.

Riddler

Can you figure out this rebus? doCTOR

Alpha triangle

1 Last vowel
2 Et Brute
3 Well-worn track
4 Travel around
5 Filling between tiles
6 French stew
7 Indignation

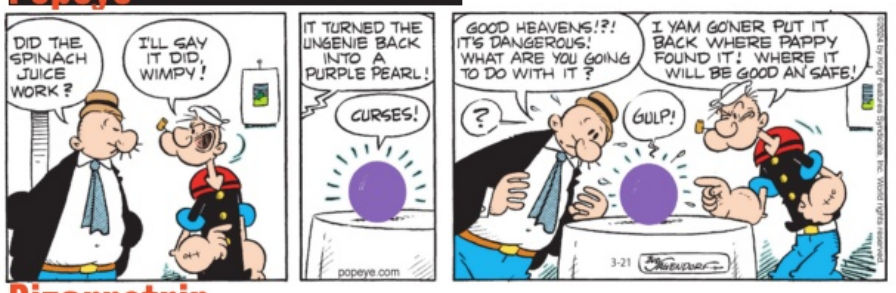


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


DID THE SPINACH JUICE WORK?
I'LL SAY IT DID, WIMPY!
IT TURNED THE UNGENIE BACK INTO A PURPLE PEARL!
CURSES!
popeye.com
GOOD HEAVENS!?! IT'S DANGEROUS! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH IT?
I YAM GONER PUT IT BACK WHERE PAPPY FOUND IT! WHERE IT WILL BE GOOD AN' SAFE!
?
GULP!
3-21

Bizarrotrip

Your eyes are as blue as Pantone 278-C.
I can't be with someone who has such poor kerning.
WHEN GRAPHIC DESIGNERS DATE
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Wayno & Piraro.
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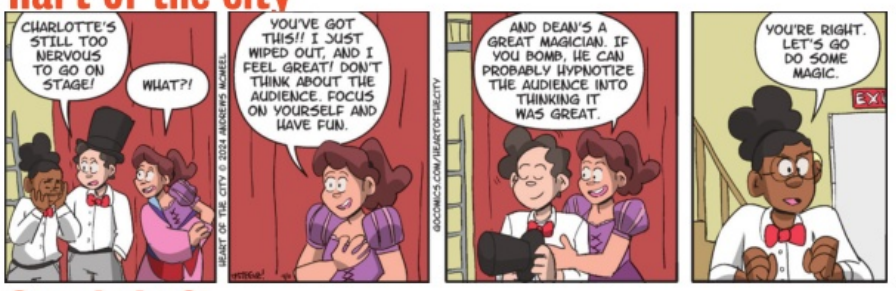
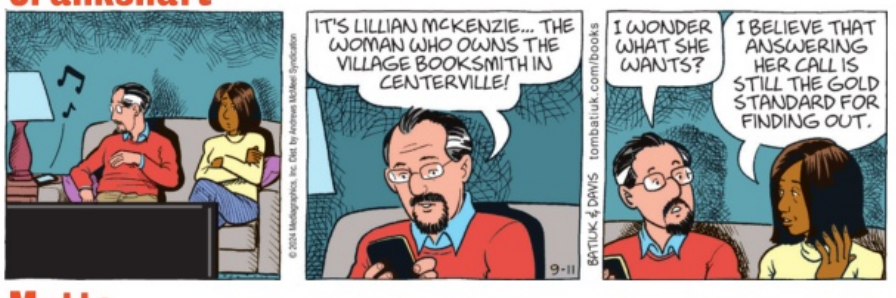
Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


CHARLOTTE'S STILL TOO NERVOUS TO GO ON STAGE!
WHAT?!
YOU'VE GOT THIS!! I JUST WIPED OUT, AND I FEEL GREAT! DON'T THINK ABOUT THE AUDIENCE. FOCUS ON YOURSELF AND HAVE FUN.
AND DEAN'S A GREAT MAGICIAN. IF YOU BOMB, HE CAN PROBABLY HYPNOTIZE THE AUDIENCE INTO THINKING IT WAS GREAT.
YOU'RE RIGHT. LET'S GO DO SOME MAGIC.
EX
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


IT'S LILLIAN MCKENZIE... THE WOMAN WHO OWNS THE VILLAGE BOOKSMITH IN CENTERVILLE!
I WONDER WHAT SHE WANTS?
I BELIEVE THAT ANSWERING HER CALL IS STILL THE GOLD STANDARD FOR FINDING OUT.
BATIUK & DAVIS
tombatiuk.com/books
9-11
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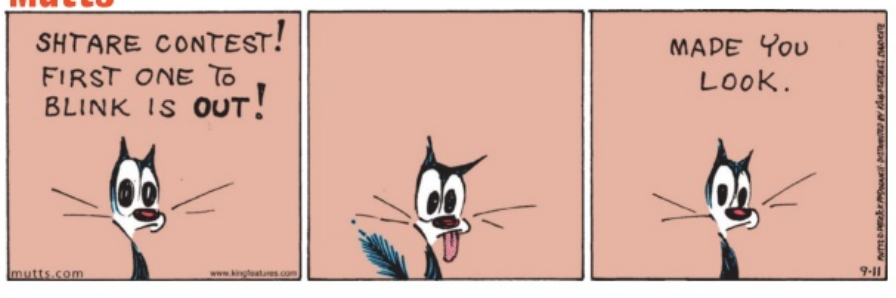
Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, your creativity may be at its peak, and you might attend a creative event. Stuck money could be recovered. Job seekers are advised to update their knowledge with the latest trends. Students should put more effort into their academics.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be busy with your children's academics and might plan for their higher studies. Couples may hear good news regarding their child. You may consider pursuing higher studies to achieve a promotion in your current job. Singles may find their soulmate.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you might feel detached from reality and struggle to fulfill your responsibilities. Investments could result in some losses. You are advised to read the documents carefully before signing them. An elder's health might cause concern. You may plan to renovate your house, but postponing it for now is recommended.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, helping needy people may enhance your social respect. You will likely give your best effort at work, completing tasks ahead of schedule. Good news from a sibling might come your way. However, excessive work could make you tired. Avoid stress, as it might affect both your professional and personal life. Meditation and fasting are advised.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be occupied with social and family events. Your polite behavior with those around you could improve your image among relatives and friends. You may spend money on artifacts or other items to elevate your social status. Good news from a close relative may brighten your day.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, disputes with siblings might be resolved, strengthening your relationship with them. Your energy levels appear to be high, helping you complete challenging projects with ease. A short work-related trip might help expand your network. Helping someone in need could boost your social reputation.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, dissatisfaction might creep into your mind, leaving you feeling lazy and dull. This could delay your ongoing projects or work. Lovebirds are advised to avoid making significant decisions regarding marriage. Job seekers may face disappointments during interviews, and you might waste precious time on unproductive activities.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you might feel dull and lose focus on your goals. Hypothetical deci- sions that are detached from reality might upset you. High expectations and impatience could lead to disappointment. Be cautious during adventure trips and avoid rushing while driving. By the afternoon, your profits might increase, and you could start working with new clients, which may boost your business.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may overcome internal weaknesses through self-analysis and feel more confident. You might successfully fight against bad habits or addictions. Singles are likely to find a suitable match, and lovebirds may gain clarity in their relationships. Opportunities for overseas travel could arise. Students might receive good news regarding their academics.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel better as situations come under control. Your network might support you at work. Planning for overseas travel is likely. This is a good time to enhance domestic harmony and your love life. With creativity, you might purchase artifacts or other decorative items for your family. Plans for movies or outings with friends and family might also materialize.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, overworking could leave you feeling tired, lazy, and careless. Patience is advised. If you're planning an adventure trip, consider postponing it for a while. Past investments might become dead stock. Students are encouraged to work harder. Health issues such as back pain, nervous system problems, or skin-related concerns might arise.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, your creativity may be at its peak. You might plan to renovate your house or office and purchase items that enhance your social status. Harmony with your spouse is likely, bringing peace to domestic life. Disputes with friends, coworkers, or partners might be resolved. Positive news regarding litigation could also come your way.

KIDZONE

Aneira Pradeep Kale, 10 years, One World International School

Kaveri Sriram, 10 years, Valistus International School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= (√(0.027))-1
= [(3√(0.027))]2
= [0.3]2/3
= 0.09

RIDDLER
Dr. Dolittle

STRIKE OUT

G	E	T	T	E	V	E	N		B	L	O	A	T	
L	I		A		O	N	I	O	N				A	
A	B	D	O	M	E	N		O	G	E	E	S		
N	I	P	A		I			K						
C	E	N	T	S		G	A	U	C	H	O	S		
E		G		E	E	L	S			R				
S	A	S	H	E	S		A	E	G	E	A	N		
	L		G	N	A	R		M		E				
O	B	L	I	G	E	S		T	H	E	R	M		
S		M		P	I		R			E				
K	B	E	A	M		E	X	C	I	S	E	S		
A	B	D	O	M	E	N	C	A	O	I				
A	N	T	I	C		T	A	L	E	N	T	S		

FAST FIVE

C	A	B	E	R
A	G	A	V	E
P	O	S	I	T
E	N	A	T	E
X	Y	L	E	M

BULL'S EYE
resort, roost, ROOSTER, root, rose, roster, rote, rotor, soot, sore, sorer, sort, sorter, store, tore, torso

QUICK

N	A	P	P	E	D		R	E	V	E	A	L		
A		U		N		S		F		A				
C	O	S	M	O	S		A	A	H	I	N	G		
S		T		S	P	A	D	E		N		I		
	C	A	C	A	O		W		E	K	E	D		
S		E		P	R	O	W	L				O		
N	A	B	S		I		G		A	F	A	R		
I		E	L	L	I	E		F				P		
A	I	R	Y		L		V	E	N	O	M			
T		O		W	O	M	E	N		L		N		
S	C	H	O	O	L		D	U	L	L	E	R		
U	B		L			R		E				A		
S	H	A	B	B	Y		A	P	A	T	H	Y		

MENSA PUZZLE
6. In each diagram, the central value equals the difference between the sums of the numbers in the left hand column and the sums of the right hand column.

QUOTE UNCODE
People remain what they are even if their faces fall apart.

SUDOKU

8	5	4	3	7	1	2	6	9
6	2	3	8	4	9	5	1	7
1	9	7	5	2	6	4	8	3
2	8	9	6	5	7	1	3	4
4	3	1	2	9	8	7	5	6
5	7	6	4	1	3	8	9	2
7	6	5	9	8	4	3	2	1
3	4	2	1	6	5	9	7	8
9	1	8	7	3	2	6	4	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, Tu, Rut, Tour, Grout, Ragout, Outrage.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 5 – 7 + 5 = 3
Medium
2 × 5 – 7 × 8 = 24
Hard
9 × 3 – 4 + 6 = 29

LOOP

KAKURO

7	12		19	16				
15	6	9	7	17	8	9		
6	1	3	2	14	7	1	16	
19	4	8	9	11	3	1	7	
	16	1	3	24	1	8	2	
10	9	1	6	4	16	7	9	
11	3	2	1	22	12	3	9	20
4	1	7	9	7	15	7	8	3
23	9	8	6	4	3	1		
6	5	1	11	9	2			

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Deep admiration

Kriti on why she admires superstar SRK

Earlier this year, Kriti Sanon spoke about her admiration for Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan. She said meeting him only amplifies the love and respect people have for him. The actress, who worked alongside Shah Rukh in 'Dilwale' (2015), opened up about her deep admiration for him during a conversation with Nikhil Kamath, rapper Badshah, and cricketer KL Rahul.

This was when Badshah, whose original name is Aditya Prateek Singh Sisodia, said his stage name was due to the fact that he happens to be a huge Shah Rukh Khan fan, to which Nikhil Kamath interjected in saying that he, too was an SRK fan.

It is then that Kriti intervened, "I love him. He is one of those few people who you are a fan of and then you meet him and become a bigger fan."

It was clear how much Kriti admires Shah Rukh Khan from her words when Nikhil Kamath told the audience that he often goes to Shah Rukh's house in Mumbai, where the two actors talk for hours. Nikhil revealed that he seeks advice from Shah Rukh, calling his insights and wisdom "incredible." Kriti added, "He is very intelligent," further highlighting the actor's depth beyond his cinematic talent. Nikhil also admitted that he goes to SRK for his "gyan" or life lessons.

Kriti expresses her admiration for SRK beyond personal experiences. When she spoke at the Times Now Summit, she spoke about the whole insider-outsider debate in Bollywood, how Shah Rukh Khan is a perfect example of such success despite being an outsider to the industry. She mentions that SRK's life is proof that success comes not only to insiders and that determination and talent know no boundaries of the film industry.

—ETimes

Zakir Hussain: March 9, 1951 - December 15, 2024

Film industry veterans mourn demise of tabla legend

The tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain left for the heavenly abode on December 15, leaving a huge void in India's music. With his excellence and humility, the Ustad touched many lives. Such is the impact of one of the greatest tabla players that his demise feels like a personal loss to many.

Several members of the film fraternity shared their condolences on his demise.

Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar took to his social media and shared an image of Zakir Hussain. He wrote, "Very pained to know about the sad demise of Ustad Zakir Hussain Sahab. He was truly a treasure for our country's musical heritage. Om Shanti".

Veteran Tamil megastar Kamal Haasan took to his X and shared an old image in which Zakir Hussain could be seen giving the taal to the actor as the latter plays tabla. He wrote, "Zakir Bhai! He left too soon. Yet we are grateful for the times he gave us and what he left behind in the form of his art. Goodbye and Thank you".

Oscar and Grammy-winning music composer AR Rahman called Zakir an inspiration and expressed his regret for not collaborating with him in recent years. He wrote, "Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un. Zakir Bhai was an inspiration, a towering personality who elevated the tabla to global acclaim. His loss is immeasurable for all of us. I regret not being able to collaborate with him as much as we did decades ago, though we had planned an album together..."

Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan also paid tribute to the legendary musician with a heartfelt image that featured her alongside Zakir Hussain and her father, Randhir Kapoor. She wrote, "Maestro forever".

Playback singer Sonu Nigam expressed his shock at the demise of the late musician, as he took to his Instagram, and wrote, "Zakir bhai... What is this?" —IANS

Nithya in Masoom: The Next Gen?

Shekhar Kapur is rumoured to be adding Nithya Menen to the ensemble cast of his highly anticipated project, Masoom: The Next Gen. The sequel of the 1983 released film reportedly has an ensemble cast that comprises of veteran actors like Shabana Azmi and Naseeruddin Shah including Manoj Bajpayee and newcomer Kaveri Kapoor.

In an earlier chat with us the National Award-winning actress had opened up about wanting to do more Bollywood films. Known for her roles in south films like Geetha Govindam, Mersal and Bangalore Days, the actress who was seen in Mission Mangal in 2019, had said, "Mission Mangal was such a positive experience.

But yes, I do hope to do more films for sure in Hindi. The Hindi film industry is so warm and encouraging. In whatever work I did here, I felt very valued and was never taken for granted," says Nithya.

About her long wait to sign another Hindi film, she had said, "It's taking a long time for me to do my next Hindi film because I am waiting for a project that tests my potential. My potential hasn't been fully explored yet and I really do hope that it finds expression."

As per industry insiders, filming is anticipated to begin in February 2025. The original Masoom, which starred Naseeruddin Shah, Shabana Azmi, and a young Jugal Hansraj, captivated audiences with its emotionally layered plot and sensitive exploration of family dynamics and forgiveness.

—Onkar Kulkarni, ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Suspense thriller

Director Pavan Wadeyar is set to direct a thriller in which Karunada Chakravarthy Dr Shiva Rajkumar will play the lead. Basking in the success of the blockbuster 'Bhairathi Ranagal', Dr Shiva Rajkumar is not the one to take things slow. Filmmaker Pavan Wadeyar will not just direct the movie but will also be bankrolling it under his banner 'Wadeyeer Movies'. This will be the fourth movie from the production house after the national award winning 'Dollu', Bollywood movie 'Awasthi vs Awasthi' directed by Pavan himself and 'Venkya' for which he joined hands with Sagar Puranik.

If all goes as per the plan, the movie is expected to go on floors next year. "Directing Dr Shiva Rajkumar has always been in the bucket list. It is any director's dream to work with Dr Shiva Rajkumar. The movie is a thriller and will be an out and out entertainer. I cannot reveal much at this point in time, but the movie will showcase Dr Shiva Rajkumar in a different avatar," said Wadeyar.

Tale of horror

Yet another horror film is in the making. The film Neelavanthi is based on a book with the same title. Murali Prasad makes debut as a director in Sandalwood with this movie. The book Neelvanthi was banned by the British in 1933. The title of the movie was unveiled by Darling Krishna at Renukamba Preview Theatre on Saturday.

"If the title of the movie is any indication, it seems the movie is expected to become a huge success. I like the horror genre. I was told the movie's shooting has already begun," said Darling Krishna. On the occasion, Karan Aryan said that he began his career in Sandalwood with a horror movie, but success eluded him. "I played the villain in a few movies. Now, I am playing the lead in this love and mass movie. I agreed to act in this movie because of its unique story. My role has two shades - an ordinary person and a king," said Karan Aryan.

Moksha from Kolkata plays the female lead. "Neelavanthi will be a big success at the box office. Around 30 percent of the shooting is completed," said director Murali Prasad.